

ST PETERSBURG, Russia — Prince Charles, his son, Prince Harry, and an international delegation of historic St Petersburg, economic misery and decay. On the second ground-breaking, how to Russia's northwestern of the tsars", the prince saw for his privations of people help. The prince, the ranking British royal, was invited to St Petersburg by Mayor Anatoly Chubais to publicise the city's struggle to go economic development, crime. In the meeting of Tuesday's press conference, the royal guest found the biggest casualty, learned the chronic Russian healthcare, starved of cash and most basic modern economics. taxi drivers, prostitutes, demands, currency payment, than surgeons, whose monthly wage is the of \$60. Prince Charles European and U.S. to explore ways of doing but still useable equipment. Russian medical care, seeing the rusty other antiquated items used in operating "Seeing is believing" as he toured St Petersburg. To Western eyes, the theatres seem to have from a period more than a century ago. "Until you come here, it is difficult to tell what particular problems are."

Russian buys  
Stalin victim's  
Faberge egg

GENEVA (R) — An art collector paid just million Swiss francs for an enameled Egg made by royal jeweler Faberge for a fabulist industrialist who died in a Christie's of pre-war antiquities. Another bought a second Egg made for an oil magnate who had taken over the former Yngolov republic. Out of the two million pilgrims, 995,116 were from abroad.

Shaaht brings  
money for  
Palestinian police

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The PLO's top negotiator Nabil Shaaht admitted Friday he had brought money to the Gaza Strip to keep the new Palestinian police force afloat. "I came today to bring money for police, so they can carry out their duties," he told reporters after slipping unannounced into Gaza overnight. He would not say how much money or if it was cash. "It's a present for the feast," he said. Dr. Shaaht, the most senior member of the Palestinian diaspora to visit the occupied territories since 1967.

Guerrillas wanted  
by Israel join  
police

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Thirty men who fought in the clandestine ranks of the armed wing of Fatah against Israel have joined the new Palestinian police force, a PLO official told AFP on Friday. Another 40 "Hawks" from the mainstream PLO group have applied to become policemen since the May 4 agreement to launch autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, said the official. All took part in the armed struggle and were listed as wanted by the Israeli army until self-rule started. "This is what I wanted to do," said Ahmad Abu Zayd, who received his blue uniform and regulation issue Kalashnikov rifle earlier this week.

Pakistan  
opposition alleges  
secret deal with  
U.S.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's opposition Friday accused the government of entering into a secret deal with the United States to open the country's nuclear facilities to inspection. The opposition attack came after Foreign Minister Assef Ahmed Ali said Wednesday that Islamabad was ready to consider proposals from the United States on "non-irradiative" means to verify that Pakistan was not producing nuclear weapons.

The leader of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister, said "to agree to non-irradiative verification means inspection which is worse than a roll back." The foreign minister's statement coincided with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari's departure on a private visit to the United States to meet with U.S. officials.

White House  
releases Clinton  
income

WASHINGTON (R) — Keeping with President Clinton's pledge to keep and avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, the White House published Friday's net worth for 1993, which also included first lady Hillary Clinton's financial disclosure, a half-billion-dollar figure of \$1.1 million.

Mr. Clinton's net worth was calculated on July 1, 1993, rather than as of June 30, as he had put most of his assets in blind trust. An independent accounting firm for his personal assets, which he had taken out of his account, had earned \$245,000 from the time he left office, from the time he left office, he had earned \$180,000 from his

## Happy 'Eid Al Adha

The JORDAN TIMES will not be published on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 22, 23, and 24 because of the Eid Al Adha holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Wednesday May 25. The Jordan Times wishes its readers a very happy 'Eid Al Adha feast.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جريدة تأثير يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراعي.

Volume 18 Number 5617

AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1994, THU AL HIJEH 10, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## 2 million pilgrims climb Mount Arafat

JEDDAH (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic were among more than two million Muslims who Friday climbed Mount Arafat, the climax of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Saudi authorities said the hajj, or pilgrimage, had passed off without incident despite threats from Iranian pilgrims to bold an anti-U.S. demonstration in defiance of a Saudi ban. Some 62 million cold water capsules donated by Saudi King Fahd were distributed to the crowd, as they climbed the mount in burning sun with temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius.

Security forces, ambulances and thousands of state employees were posted along the pilgrims' route from Mina, 10 kilometers north of Mecca, to Mount Arafat. "The pilgrims' climb of Mount Arafat went off in record time despite their large numbers and there were no reported incidents," said Mecca Governor Prince Majed Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Security Chief General Ahmad Bilal.

King Hussein and Mr. Assad had a meeting, which was attended by senior Jordanian and Syrian officials before having a closed-door meeting, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

His Majesty and the Syrian President reviewed the situation in the region and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Assad briefed the King on the outcome of his recent talks with American Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Petra said.

Syria said the Israeli ideas were not enough to break the stalemate because they did not include an Israeli pledge for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. Israel wants to have normal ties with Damascus before revealing the extent of withdrawal.

The Jordanian and the Sy-

rian sides stressed the importance of coordination between the two countries and the need to define the requirements of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions.

Syrian officials stressed the importance of coordination among the parties involved in the peace talks with Israel.

"Coordination among the Arab parties is important because it will strengthen the Arab position at the negotiations and prevent Israel from imposing the solutions it wants on them," one official was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency.

Syria will continue to work for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and refuse separate or partial deals like the Gaza-Jericho accord between the PLO and Israel which deprived Palestinians of their rights," he said.

The two sides also agreed to boost and bolster bilateral relations in various fields.

The situation in strife-torn Yemen was also under focus in the talks, with the two leaders stressing their keen interest in preserving Yemen's unity and protecting its achievements.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's advisor on political affairs Marwan Al Qassem.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Vice-President Abdul Haleem

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad greets His Majesty King Hussein upon his arrival in Damascus

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King Hussein was received at Amman Airport upon his return by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of the King, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Chief Chamberlain

Khaddam and Mohammad Zubair Masbarqa, Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharra and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Wahid Fadel.

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Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, the King's advisors, Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nuwaar, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mar'i Al Kaabneh and other senior officials.

At Damascus Airport, King Hussein was seen off by Mr. Assad, Mr. Khaddam, Dr. Masbarqa, Mr. Zu'bi, Mr. Sharra and other senior officials.

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## Iraqi Kurdish factions battle in northern Iraq

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Rival Kurdish guerrilla factions battled for two towns in northern Iraq, forcing buffer forces to withdraw and bashing efforts to halt the 19-day-old conflict, officials from both sides said.

Units of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC), which has tried to separate the combatants, had to pull out of several strong points they had occupied around Khoi Sanjak and Shaqlawa under earlier peace pacts, INC officials said.

The latest battles between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, have closed roads between the capital Irbil and the cities of Dahuk and Sulaimaniyah.

The two Kurdish groups jointly rule on area of northern Iraq which has been protected from the government in Baghdad by Western air power since President Saddam Hussein crushed a Kurdish revolt by the end of the 1991 Gulf War. The INC is an anti-Saddam alliance to which both Kurdish groups belong.

A senior U.N. official said 15 to 20 foreign aid workers and U.N. guards were trapped inside Shaqlawa as KDP forces sought to dislodge their PUK foes from surrounding heights.

The foreigners, contacted by radio, said they were safe for the moment because fighting had not spread to the town itself.

KDP Peshmerga guerrillas on the road a few kilometres from Shaqlawa were firing deafening rounds from a 106-mm recoilless rifle at PUK positions in the hills in the late afternoon.

They said PUK fighters were effectively surrounded in Shaqlawa, but were still resisting.

"We are not shooting at the town," one KDP man said. "We don't want to enter it or endanger civilians or shed any blood. We want a peaceful solution."

But there was no immediate let-up in the fighting. Small arms fire cracked in the distance, along with the heavier thud of anti-aircraft guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

Thursday's clashes began just hours after the end of a late-night meeting at INC headquarters in Salahuddin at which the feuding factions agreed to issue a new ceasefire call.

KDP leader Massoud Barzani accepted a request from the PUK to make a televised peace appeal Thursday, but he changed his mind after the new fighting erupted, KDP officials said.

The two sides have so far successfully sought to prevent fighting in the capital Irbil, while the PUK has the upper hand in Sulaimaniyah, and developed rapidly into a turf war which has redrawn the map of northern Iraq according to party affiliation.

The KDP controls all but a small pocket of the western governorate of Dahuk, while the PUK has the upper hand in Sulaimaniyah governorate, though many parts are disputed.

The two sides have so far successfully sought to prevent fighting in the capital Irbil, while the PUK fighters have taken control of the parliament and other government buildings there.

Fighting has also flared again between the PUK and the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, especially around the town of Halabja on the Iranian border, in the last few days.

The PUK which launched a big assault on the Muslim militia in December, says Iranian Revolutionary Guards are fighting alongside the Islamic forces, the KDP denies this claim.

Mr. Clarry told Reuters that recent fighting near the Iranian border had caused panic among civilians who had been settled near Sain Sadiq after losing their homes in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk during the failed Kurdish uprising of 1991.

He said about 1,000 families were reported to have left the Shambanay Camp and were heading towards Sulaimaniyah. "People are pitching tents near Arbat just outside the city," he said.

Armed conflict between supporters of your administration can be expected to negatively affect international support to the region," Stafford Clarry, head of the UN Iraq Relief Coordination Unit based in Irbil, wrote to the Iraqi Kurdish regional government in which the KDP and PUK share power.

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JOINT PATROLS: Palestinian policemen (left & centre) enjoy a cup of coffee with their Israeli counterpart during a break of the joint patrol in Jericho Friday (AFP photo)

## Egyptian ferry blazes, sinks in Red Sea

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of holiday travellers dived into the Red Sea during the night as fire gutted a ferry carrying them from Saudi Arabia to Egypt.

At least eight of the nearly 600 people aboard the Egyptian ferry Qamar Al Said died. Officials said up to 21 people might still be missing.

The ferry was bringing hundreds of Egyptians home for the Muslim festival of Eid Al Adha which starts Saturday and marks the climax of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

It had dropped 500 passengers at the Egyptian port of Safaga and was carrying 510 passengers and 83 crew north towards Suez when one of its boilers exploded Wednesday night.

United States Navy forces assisting the rescue said 476 people had been saved and

others were still being plucked during the afternoon from the sea and from an oil platform in the area 30 miles north of Safaga.

Some survivors were being taken to the Red Sea resort of Hurghada. Others were picked up by three tugs working in the oilfields of the Gulf of Suez and were taken to shore at Gabal Zeit.

Major-General Salah Mokhtar, director of the Suez and Red Sea ports, said 10 rescue units were taking part.

Minister of Transport Soliman Metwalli flew to the area.

In December 1991, 476 people died when a ferry packed with Egyptian pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia hit a reef and sank near Safaga.

## Yemen foes take a daily break for qat

SANA (R) — When midday comes to Yemen's civil war battlefield, soldiers on both sides put down their guns till sunset.

The long, hot afternoon belongs to the ritual of qat — a bitter narcotic leaf which requires hours of chewing to produce its mild stimulant effect.

"The battle was going on in the morning but it died down by noon. You just missed it," a Northern soldier told this reporter on a frontline visit.

"It's lunchtime, and after that qat. Both sides respect these needs," explained an army officer.

"Fighting will probably resume late in the afternoon and you can watch it if you're still

around," another soldier said.

Civil war erupted on May 4 out of a quarrel between President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner, and Vice President Ali Salim Al Beidh, a southerner. They are the same leaders who merged North and South Yemen into a single state in 1990.

Journalists touring battle-

fronts have found hardly any fighting during qat time.

Soldiers sit in the shade of a wall, a tank or under trees with plastic bags full of the green herb in front of them.

Officers chew qat in their offices as they explain developments in the battles to visiting journalists.

Southern prisoners of war commonly receive a ration of

qat from their northern captors.

At the camp of the Northern Amaligha Brigade, the captured commander of a southern brigade was sitting on a cushion on the floor of a room next to the Amaligha commander's office, chewing qat.

The Amaligha, in the southern city of Zinjibar, has been trying to advance to Beidh's capital Aden 50 kilometres (34 miles) to the southwest since the war began, but has met determined resistance.

In the police station at Al Rafid on the road between Aden and the northern city of Taiz, 53 southern prisoners were pooling their funds and asking their northern guards to buy qat for them.

## Turkey unveils democratisation plan

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has proposed a series of democratisation measures that will open the political arena to groups barred from politics by Turkey's former military rulers.

The programme includes revisions to 10 articles of the constitution, a restrictive charter passed in 1982 when Turkey was ruled by a military junta that seized power in 1980.

In a big move towards a fully pluralist democracy, the measures will lift all restrictions that bar academics, students, labour unions and associations from political activity.

But a human rights campaigner and a political columnist noted that the package did little to improve human rights in Turkey.

"If there is nothing about repealing laws that restrict human rights... that democratisation will be worthless," said Mahmut Ongoren, head of the Human Rights Foundation of

Turkey.

A score of other improvements are to be made either by amending existing laws or by new legislation, all requiring action by the 450-member parliament.

Other measures will lower the voting age from 21 to 18 and allow members of parliament to switch parties at will.

"The democratisation package aims at putting Turkey on the track for restructuring in administrative, social and political areas," Ms. Ciller told a news conference.

The programme was assembled over the past few months by her conservative True Path Party (DYP) and its junior coalition partner, the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

The SHP is believed to have given its support to Ms. Ciller's austerity programme in return for the democratisation moves.

The coalition, which holds 233 seats in the parliament, needs two-thirds of the votes to change the constitution but it

can pass other legislation with a simple majority.

Ms. Ciller indicated she would improve ethnic and cultural rights for Kurds in southeast Turkey, where troops have been battling against separatist Kurdish guerrillas since 1984. But she said Turkey's national unity would not be prejudiced.

"All legal obstacles and restrictions which citizens meet in the free expression and development of their ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity characteristics will be handled within national unity," she said.

Mehmed Alil Birand, a political columnist, reacting to the package, told Reuters: "It is absolutely crucial for Ciller to get this package accepted in order to keep the Social Democrat as her partner." he said.

"But I think she will succeed... It is already such a small package and offers only minor improvements on human rights."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Blast hits Christian school in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (AFP) — A powerful explosion badly damaged a Christian school in the southern Lebanon port city of Sidon early Friday, without causing any casualties, officials said. Police said the blast was caused by a bomb, but a government prosecutor who visited the scene, Khaled Hamoud, said no trace of explosives had been found and it was probably caused by a gas leak. The investigation was continuing, he said. The explosion wrecked the dining room and blew out windows at the Evangelical Protestant School, formerly known as the American School. It happened at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT) and was heard over a wide distance. Headmaster Jamal Yazigi ordered the school's temporary closure and police sealed off the area. Mr. Yazigi said there had been no warning and he was unaware of why the school, which has 3,300 pupils, would be the target of a bomb attack. A blast in a Christian church north of Beirut on Feb. killed 10 people and left 54 hurt. Sidon, hometown of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, is mainly Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim, but has a small Christian community.

### Lebanese shell pro-Israeli militia

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Lebanese guerrillas shelled five fortified posts of Israel's militia allies in its South Lebanon occupation zone at dawn Friday, militia sources said. They said mortar bombs exploded around positions of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) at Reshal, Jebel Hamuyed, Barashit, Shikif Annam and Beit Yahoun but caused no damage or injuries. Security sources said a civilian was injured in Barashit village when SLA gunners retaliated by shelling the village and other centres north of the occupation zone.

### Rabin tops popularity poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is Israel's most popular political leader, according to an opinion poll published Friday. The premier and Labour Party leader won 36 per cent support in the survey carried out for the Yediot Aharonot newspaper. Israelis were asked to say who they thought was "the best person to lead the government at this time." Benjamin Netanyahu, opposition Likud Party leader, gained 19 per cent and former defence minister and right-wing hardliner Ariel Sharon 12 per cent. Far-right Tsomet Party chief Rafael Eitan had 11 per cent backing, one percentage point ahead of Labour Party rebel and ex-Health Minister Chaim Ramon. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres trailed in with seven per cent. The poll also found that Mr. Rabin would win 50 per cent support over 38 per cent for Netanyahu if snap elections were held. Six per cent of the 503 people questioned by the Dahat Institute Tuesday and Wednesday voiced no opinion.

### Rocket hits Kabul market, kills 16

KABUL (R) — At least 16 people were killed when a rocket hit a market in western Kabul Thursday, an army official said. People were buying food when the rocket struck the market in an area controlled by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who said the official from the Kabul garrison which is loyal to the prime minister's arch-foe, President Burhanuddin Rabbani. It was not immediately clear who fired the rocket. But the garrison official said it was not the work of pro-Rabbani forces and could have been fired by opposition forces themselves. No comment was immediately available from Mr. Hekmatyar's Hez-b-I-Islami Party which, together with northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, seeks to topple Rabbani. Witnesses said both sides were firing rockets and artillery at each other's positions in the capital, where more than 2,500 people have been killed since renewed hostilities broke out on New Year's Day. Doctors said a seven-year-old boy was killed and several people were wounded in other parts of the city Thursday.

### Iran seizes 15 tonnes of drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian authorities seized 15 tonnes of drugs from mid-March till early May, arresting 1,419 traffickers, police chief Reza Seifollah said. Mr. Seifollah said 2,000 drug addicts had also been arrested between March 20 and May 6 and put through rehabilitation programmes. Iran is a transit route for drugs coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan destined for Europe and North America via Turkey. Last year the authorities seized about 95 tonnes of drugs — mainly heroin, morphine and opium — and arrested 15,000 drug traffickers and 45,000 drug addicts, according to official figures.

### Dissident's wife: Libya offered bribe

PARIS (R) — The wife of a prominent Libyan dissident who disappeared in Cairo last December has said a senior Libyan official offered her money to tone down her campaign against leader Muammar Qaddafi, the New York Times Service reported Friday. Former Foreign Minister Mansour Kikha quit his government post in 1981 and became a critic of Col. Qaddafi and a leading opposition figure abroad. He disappeared mysteriously in Cairo on Dec. 11. Libyan opposition leaders and Mr. Kikha's wife, Baha Al Omari, have said they feared he was abducted by Libyan government agents. Libya has denied that Mr. Kikha, 61, is on its territory. A New York Times Service report published in the Paris-based International Herald-Tribune said Ms. Omari, who lives in France, indicated that a Libyan official told her Tripoli was prepared to assume all expenses for her four children and herself. She said she interpreted the offer as being conditional on her softening or ending her campaign on behalf of her husband. The report said the offer followed two conciliatory letters from Col. Qaddafi in which he referred to Mr. Kikha as a "patriot" whose disappearance was a major concern of the Libyan government.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

Le Monde Sous Marin

1730 ... Docu. De La Semaine

1830 ... News in French

1930 ... Lebanon

2030 ... News in Hebrew

2030-35 ... News in Arabic

2100 ... The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

2130 ... Varieties

2130 ... The Campbells

2200 ... News in English

2220 ... Feature Film: "For Their Own Good"

### PRAYER TIMES

Pajr (Sunrise) Dhuha

Dhuhr

1232 ... Asr

1613 ... Magrib

1933 ... Isha'

2103 ... Isha'

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh,

Tel. 510740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637400

De La Salle Church Tel. 661757

Transcendent Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## Home News

A powerful explosion in the southern Jordanian town causing any causalities was caused by a local who visited the scene. No explosives had been found in the leak. The investigation is ongoing.

Evangelical Protestant American School. It was heard over a radio. A school official ordered the school to leave the area. Mr. Yang said he was unaware of who would be the target of any attack north of Beirut on Friday, hometown of Prime Minister Yasser Arafat and Shi'ite Muslims.

Pro-Israeli militia

(R) — Lebanese guerrillas' militia allies in South Lebanon, militia sources said, gathered around positions of Teshaf, Jebel Humayyd, and Yaboun but caused no damage.

Yahya said a civilian was killed.

A gunner retaliated by

shelling north of the occupied

territory.

arity poll

Minister Yitzhak Rabin

der, according to an inter- and Labour Party survey carried out for

Minister of the

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

1000 copies printed in English, 1000 copies in Arabic, 1000 copies in French, 1000 copies in German.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Holiday, with room for thought

IT IS once again the holiday season when thousands of Jordanians travel abroad or visit national touristic sites to celebrate and enjoy Eid Al Adha. Travel agents report that practically all outgoing flights are fully booked with some of them even overbooked by 60 per cent. This mass travel has, of course, pluses and minuses attached to it.

On the positive side, travel to foreign lands gives Jordanians opportunities to see and experience foreign cultures, and as such it is an educating process. Besides, our national carrier, Royal Jordanian, and the transport sector generally, benefit from the extra business, bringing into the country added revenues, both direct and indirect. On top of that, airport and border departure fees help reduce our budget deficit.

On the negative side, travelling abroad deprives local touristic facilities of additional incomes and profits. In this vein, Aqaba stands out as the most competitive touristic area in the country where Jordanians could have been spending their holidays instead of flying out of the country. Yet a closer look at Aqaba and its touristic and hotel facilities would reveal that they are to blame for lost businesses.

To begin with, the cost price in Aqaba is not competitive when all things are considered. Jordanians have long discovered that it could be cheaper to fly to far away places and stay at five star hotels at prices that are equal or even cheaper than what is being offered at Aqaba beach hotels. The problem here is that Aqaba hotels try to make their money in a few months of the year when the weather conditions are most favourable instead of developing a touristic policy that would allow them to make business all year around.

Part of the problem is also the limited coastline in Aqaba, measuring no more than one kilometre. When thousands of Jordanians flock south to swim and enjoy the sun, the beaches become overcrowded. It is unfortunate that till this time all the southern beach area is still undeveloped in spite of the fact that we all have been saying for decades that Aqaba is our prime touristic area.

At a time when beaches on the Egyptian side of the Sinai Peninsula are thriving and Israel is busy developing a fully integrated touristic area in Eilat and its environs, Aqaba cannot afford to lose its touristic potential. Private investors can develop that potential, but only after our authorities make up their mind on what exactly they want Aqaba to be: A real touristic attraction or just a seaport, or both. If the latter is the final choice, as indeed it has been, well, the government should at least delineate where new beaches for development can begin and end.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Amman reconciliation agreement between the northern and southern leaders of Yemen has been scrapped and buried beneath the rubble of the ongoing conflict, Jordan has to adopt a very clear position with regard to the war in that Arab country, said Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i. It is true that the Kingdom, which brought together the leaders of both sides and concluded the peace that was designed to last, has played a neutral part in the conflict so far, but Amman must now come out in the open and declare that it recognises only one united Yemen, with its capital Sanaa, said the writer. We are for legitimacy and democracy and we should admit that Yemen has a single army while those in the south are trying to separate Aden from the motherland, said Fanek. The writer said that the Yemeni unity was achieved not through force but through dialogue and mutual agreement and that the separatists are trying to end the unity with the use of weapons. That, he said, must be stopped by all means. In his view, those Arabs trying to bring about reconciliation at this juncture are attempting to consecrate the split between Sanaa and Aden and are trying to ensure that the two Yemens remain separated. The writer said that Jordan should openly support Sanaa in its drive to perpetuate unity and its drive towards democracy.

SELDOM A day passes by without a report in the local press about authorities seizing quantities of food found unfit for human consumption, said Samir Naifeh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab daily. It is not enough for the concerned authorities to fine the violators of public health regulations, a wide-scale search campaign for bad food and its traders is required on regular basis so as to stem the tendency among the traders towards manipulations and cheating the public as well, said the writer. The Health Ministry is called on to strike with an iron fist at those merchants, bakers or restaurants who persist in their cheating and manipulations, and to ensure that they are denied a licence for the business they have been abusing, demanded the writer.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Arms embargo on Bosnia should end soon

By Dr. Musa Keilani

FOR THE first time since the eruption of war in former Yugoslavia two years ago, concrete moves are being taken to mobilise international public opinion and parliamentary support for an end to the arms embargo imposed against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The realisation that the embargo is denying the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina their legitimate right to self-defence against a war of genocide waged by expansionist Bosnian Serbs was on the centre-stage at a meeting held in Brussels in late April.

The International Conference of Parliamentarians (ICP) Against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, sponsored by the speaker of the European Parliament, brought together more than 200 parliament members, political party leaders and media personnel from 40 countries to discuss the injustice that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected to.

Particularly brought into focus during the conference was the unjust arms embargo against the victims of aggression by the Bosnian Serbs, to whom the ban against military supplies to former Yugoslavia does not matter much since they have allies in the region to keep their arsenal replenished.

The key resolution adopted by the conference was a pledge to exert effort on all levels to lift the embargo so that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina could defend themselves against the Bosnian Serb assault, which is supported by advocates of a greater Serbia and their allies.

The conference was indeed aware that lifting the embargo in itself was of not much help to the people, and thus the idea was incorporated that once the embargo is no longer in place, then friends of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina could extend military aid to help them fight an enemy far stronger in terms of weapons and manoeuvrability.

There is no doubt that certain European powers with vested

interests are extending support, moral and material, to the Bosnian Serbs to pursue their campaign of "ethnic cleansing" and expanding occupation to achieve the objective of a greater Serbia in the Balkans.

Representatives from the conference, his writer included, paid a visit to Rome seeking the weight of the Vatican, where they met with the de facto foreign minister of the Holy See and presented the case. The Holy See was indeed highly understanding of the cause of the International Conference of Parliamentarians Against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The practical translations of that understanding and appreciation will, hopefully, manifest soon.

A field visit to the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, was all that was needed to drive home the point among many conference that unless something was done quickly and immediately the cause of Bosnians would be lost for ever.

Being a Muslim, I could not but come away convinced that by either ignoring the plight of the Bosnian Muslims or being apathetic to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Islamic countries have committed a grave mistake. History will not forgive them for not allowing an advance Muslim people, who have reached a level of an equilibrium between religious belief and the needs of the modern age, to bloom by helping them in their hour of need and preventing their elimination.

It is not late today. It was heartening for the Brussels conference to note that a draft legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress that would effectively force the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. American lawmakers deserve high praise for the gesture, which will hopefully be picked and followed up by the Clinton administration.

But it is disturbing to take note of a intensification of a campaign by lobbyists to influence the U.S. Congress against

adopting the draft law. No doubt, those behind the campaign are trying to convince the lawmakers that a process of peace is under way in Bosnia-Herzegovina and it would be defeating the purpose to lift the arms embargo at this point in time.

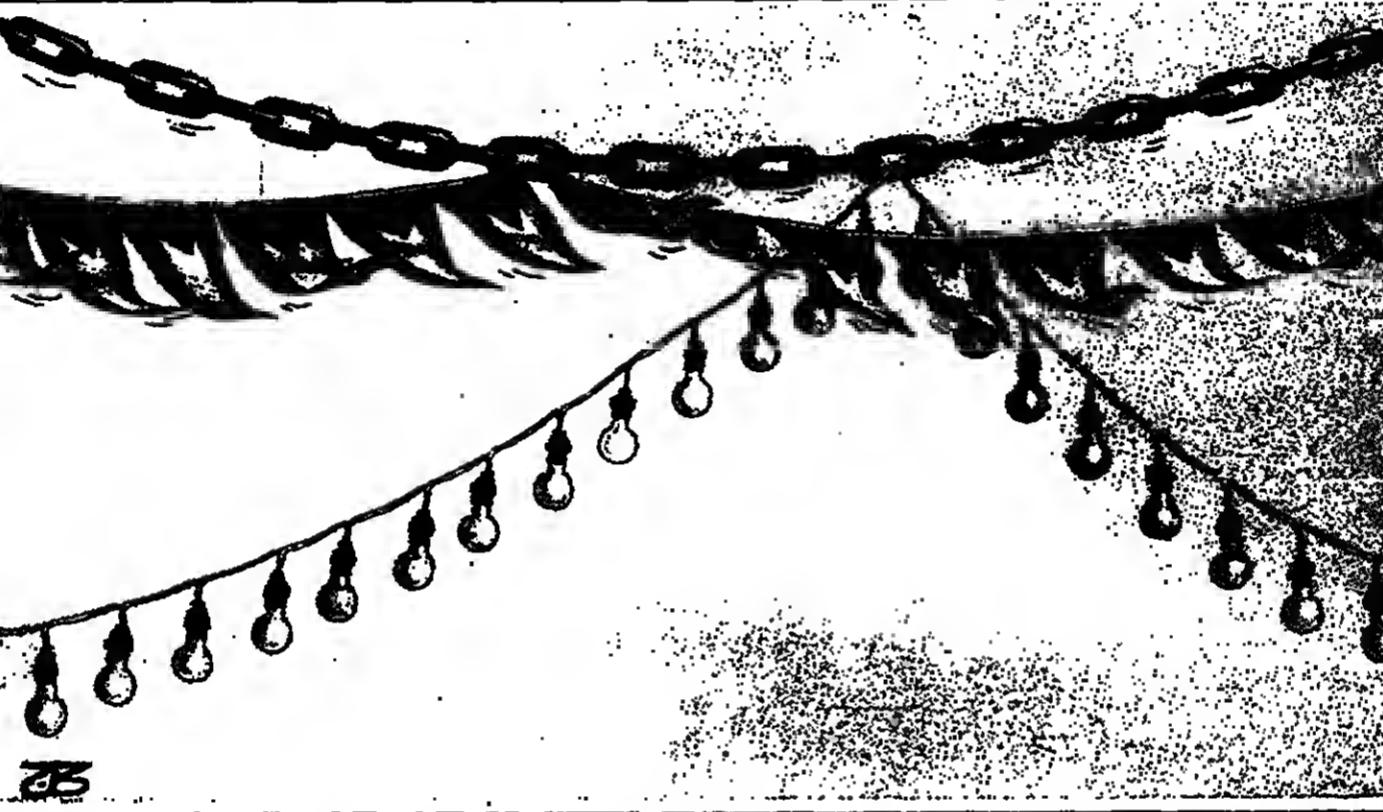
One would be more mistaken if anyone believes that argument. We have had more than enough experience with Serb procrastination and brinkmanship to realise that Serb gestures of accepting peace plans and proposals are only stalling tactics aimed at preempting forceful international action to dissuade them from continuing their deadly game in the Balkans.

The conference of parliamentarians and all those who would like to see an end to the injustices committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina were fortunate to have a dedicated Jordanian, Kamel Al Sharif, as chairman of the Brussels conference.

Since returning from the gathering, the conference chairman has sent appeals to all heads of governments, informing them of what had transpired in Brussels and urging them to appreciate the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and adopt action by their own governments to extend help.

Simultaneously, all participants in the Brussels conference have also been urged to adopt follow-up action in their respective countries to lobby their governments and raise public awareness of the realities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and realisation of who is the victim and who is the aggressor there.

Particular focus has also been given to the draft legislation in the U.S. Congress. Personal appeals have gone out to President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Albert Gore and leaders in the American legislative authority. Hopefully, the spirit in which the world's peace loving people call for a fair and just approach to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be heard and understood in the same wavelength it was sent.



## Uncertain future for Palestinians in Lebanon

By Rosemary Sayigh

THE PROPOSAL by the Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, to "redistribute" Palestinians living in Lebanon (Al Safir, April 18 and MEI 474) has deepened concern about their future.

Evoking Lebanon's "delicate composition", Mr. Buwayz proposes that 20 per cent of Lebanon's Palestinians should go to Gaza or Jericho; another 25 per cent should join kin wherever these may be; the rest should be given priority by any country with space for immigrants. Under no circumstances will Lebanon agree to give Palestinians citizenship. Mr. Buwayz underlined Lebanese unanimity on this point.

The exact number of Palestinians who live in Lebanon, or have residence rights there, is unknown. A recent UNRWA figure of registered refugees is 351,000, but this figure is problematic because it includes a certain number of Lebanese, and does not include all Palestinians. Excluded are all refugees who arrived after the closure of the registration lists in the early 1950s, most of whom came after Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967. Of registered refugees, less than half live in camps. But the rest do not necessarily enjoy a higher standard of living: the majority live in rural or suburban settlements hardly distinguishable from camps.

Mr. Buwayz's proposals come soon after a visit by UNRWA's commissioner-general to Beirut during which he met both the president and the prime minister. In itself a sign of crisis. The main subject of discussion was likely to have been recent government moves discouraging reconstruction of the camps. This followed a meeting on Feb. 21 between Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and a Palestinian delegation. High on the Palestinian agenda was the fate of the war-displaced (muhajirin) under notice to quit illegal accommodation by June.

Displaced refugees

An UNRWA survey carried out in 1990-91 identified approximately 6,000 displaced refugee families: 3,000 in the Sidon area, 1,675 in Beirut, and 474,464 and 341

in the north, Beqaa and Tyre respectively. The majority either have no rights to camp or come from camps that have been destroyed. UNRWA says it has located more than 2,000 sites in existing camps that could be used for rebuilding.

Up to January this year, work to restore damaged camp housing and infrastructure was well under way. Water pipes, sewage, roads and electricity grids were being repaired. Evicted families from the Beirut-Sidon coastal area had been rehoused in Burj Al Shimal. In Beirut, 60 displaced families in hotels in Rawshieh were rehoused in multi-storey buildings on the edge of Shatila. Such building is an improvement on older camp housing for having kitchens and washrooms; it also makes more economical use of camp space. But in January, after a meeting between the prime minister and UNRWA's Lebanon field director, plans for further housing of this sort were shelved.

Mr. Hariri's response to the Palestinian delegation added a new negation to Lebanon's policy towards the camps. This policy to date may be summarised by three nos: no to the rebuilding of four camps destroyed by war; no to the expansion of existing camps; no to the establishment of new camps. Until December 1993 however, repairs in existing camps were under way, expedited by the end of fighting and plans for the return of all muhajirin.

Lebanese and Palestinians to their homes. Now, even these few remaining "safe areas" appear threatened.

Mr. Hariri told the delegation that camps in the Beirut area would soon have to go as part of plans for "beautification" of the city. The prime minister also evoked past sectarian battles by saying that camps with hostile (i.e. Maronite or Shiite) neighbours should not be rebuilt. These warnings affect five out of the 11 remaining camps. A project to rebuild the Haifa-Tripoli railway line may affect four other camps.

Pessimists assert that in Lebanon today Mr. Hariri is the government, no other voices count. His "money is right" style could bulldoze through the legal niceties of camp site leases, U.N. objections, and Palestinian resistance. They say, too, that Palestinians no longer enjoy

\$20m for this project which is likely to engulf Shatila. Up to now public electricity has not been restored to this camp even though subscriptions have been paid.

Where can the many Palestinians who need low-cost housing and UNRWA services live?

Mr. Hariri insisted that by June all war-displaced in Beirut and Sidon (more than 4,500 families) must leave squatter homes or face eviction. He advised that international money should be sought to give every Palestinian family \$25,000 with which to buy or rent accommodation outside the camps.

Pressure to emigrate

Mr. Hariri said also to have reiterated the official Lebanese position that there can be no question of giving Palestinians civic rights (the most crucial being the right to employment) before a general Middle East settlement. Yet though the question of their status is said to be "frozen", on the ground changes are taking place that suggest the official policy, however uncoordinated, is to multiply pressures on Palestinians to emigrate.

Palestinians are divided as to how much importance should be attached to the prime minister's words. Some point out that he expressed his own views, not official policy. Opposition has been voiced by important figures such as Walid Jumblatt (minister for the war-displaced), and Nabih Berri (speaker of parliament). Mr. Hariri's popularity is declining, the optimists say, while movements that support the Palestinian cause have supported the Palestinian national struggle, have not campaigned for their civic rights. And those who support their claim to civic rights have not worked out ways these could be implemented without surrendering national identity and repatriation rights.

Palestinian leaders say that the people will resist demolition of the camps, just as they have resisted other attacks in the past. Meanwhile, they are mobilising support in parliament and elsewhere, among a broad spectrum of political figures.

But whether or not official policy increases Palestinian emigration, there is no doubt about its effects on those who depend economically and socially on camp space. As PFLP leader Salah Salah said in an interview: "All the problems that a poor population suffers from — sickness, drugs, family quarrels — can only be exacerbated." Given the already low level of welfare, this is a sobering thought.

Pessimists assert that in Lebanon today Mr. Hariri is the government, no other voices count. His "money is right" style could bulldoze through the legal niceties of camp site leases, U.N. objections, and Palestinian resistance. They say, too, that Palestinians no longer enjoy

the support of any mainstream political party or community. The traditionally pro-Palestinian "national progressive" bloc has been angered by the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and is unlikely actively to oppose slate moves against the camps as long as these are carried out without overt violence. Syria has both political and economic motives not to intervene to prevent such moves, which Palestinians here see as part of an international and regional plan to break up old Palestinian settlements and disperse their residents into a yet wider diaspora.

Moreover, the government has been moving skillfully to avoid confrontation, dealing with small groups of squatters at a time, moving out Lebanese as well as Palestinian muhajirin (though paying the Lebanese higher compensation), and capitalising on Lebanese resentment of continuing military operations from the south. Furthermore, there are contradictions that weaken pro-Palestinian voices: those who have supported the Palestinian national struggle have not campaigned for their civic rights. And those who support their claim to civic rights have not worked out ways these could be implemented without surrendering national identity and repatriation rights.

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Rosemary Sayigh, who lives in Beirut, is the author of *Tou Many Enemies: the Palestinian experience in Lebanon*. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Yemeni war a reflection of Arab weakness

Reviewed by Elias Nasrallah

THE WAR in Yemen continued to attract attention in the local press in the past week but solid prospects for peace in the Middle East, the autonomy rule in Jericho and Gaza as well as domestic affairs.

Sawt Al Shabab daily said that the northern and the southern leaders of Yemen are intent on carrying on the fighting, thus opening the door wide for foreign intervention, especially as the Arab League has failed to stop the war.

The paper said that this mad war continues to kill innocent people and devastate vital economic and social institutions in the poverty-stricken country.

President Ali Abdulla Saleh should not become a prisoner of his own decisions, nor should Ali-Saleh Al Beidi, head of the Aden-based Socialist Party, rest assured that his air force would have the upper hand.

They, both should realise that they are sowing the seeds of hatred among their own people and destroying their country's economic institutions, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that the leaders of the north and the south Yemen should opt for dialogue and should realise that there can be no victor in civil war.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i said what was required by the Arab World is to find a way to end the fighting in Yemen, rather than endorsing the civil war that has cost the country its unity. Oman and Jordan were alone in getting the northern and southern leaders together and ending the differences but unfortunately their efforts failed to acquire other parties' support, said the writer. In fact, some Arabs opted for fueling the strife and encouraging the bloodshed and some have encouraged one side against the other because they hated to see Yemen united and following the path of democracy, added Mr. Rimawi.

In the view of the Al Dustour daily, the war in Yemen represents the true image of the weak Arab order. This Arab order does not have the required mechanism to stop the fighting and the continued inter-Arab differences have rendered the Arab League without any credibility, said the paper. Indeed the continued war in Yemen cannot be stopped by wishful thinking or the writer.

Saleh Al Qallab said that the Palestinian people have all the right to rejoice at the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the areas of Jericho and Gaza following 27 years of occupation.

The columnist who writes for Al Dustour said that Palestinians have all reason to be jubilant at the start of their freedom while they continue the struggle for the end of occupation in Palestine.

The pain over the fratricidal war in Yemen, he said, should not stop the Palestinians and the other Arabs from expressing their joy over the start of freedom for Palestine.

## LETTERS

### A 'serious oversight'

To the Editor:

## Features

### A battle lost but a war won for S. Africa's blacks

By James Flannery  
Reuters

**BLOOD RIVER**, South Africa — Tribal warriors with spears lost to superior-armed white forces at Blood River but it turned out to be just one battle in a war that blacks finally won in South Africa.

This is the desolate place that gave the world the Afrikaner word *laager*, a defensive circle of wagons that turned out to be more a closed state of mind than a military doctrine.

A humiliating defeat here for blacks dogged South Africa's majority population during white rule. But it inspired the liberation struggle of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress which took power in all-race elections last month.

War memorials litter South Africa's colonial battlefields, like Blood River, but hardly any honour the "other side" — valiant black fighters.

"I think in the next couple of years we shall see the appearance of solid tributes to black military feats," says military historian David Rattray, an expert on the Zulu wars.

At present the victories and defeats of South Africa's warrior tribe of Zulus, the nation's largest black group still with a pivotal role, go without much public acknowledgement.

Grandiose marble, stone and steel reliefs pay tribute just to the white troops, Afrikaner and British, slain in clashes of the West's 19th century "scramble for Africa".

To the closed-minds of white supremacists, heroism was for European soldiers — their opponents were merely "bloodthirsty savages," honoured in only a couple of places, at Rorke's Drift, a British victory, and at Ulundi, where the British finally smashed the Zulu nation.

Among the most extraordinary memorials in the world is a full-scale metal reconstruction, on the sun-baked plains of KwaZulu-Natal, of a Boer fighting laager.

Built to last centuries, here is a colossal ring of 64 replica ox-wagons, made of cast-steel, overlaid with bronze — an almost unbelievable sight on remote grassland in the former Zululand, about 350 kilometres southeast of Johannesburg.

This is a well-spring for Afrikanerdom, marking a so-called day of the vow when Boer trekkers pledged eternal dedication to God if granted victory over their Zulu foes.

They had just a week to wait. They drew their wagons lashed together into a tight

circle on the banks of the Ncome River, a tributary of the Thukela. And at dawn on Dec. 16, 1838, they were attacked by 10,000 Zulu warriors.

Backed by cannons, the Boers, each armed with five muskets reloaded by their wives, dispersed the warriors, killing 3,000 Zulus. Only three of 470 trekkers were wounded, none fatally.

Not a single Zulu got closer than 10 metres of the laager. In three hours of carnage, the adjacent river ran red with blood — hence the name given by the Boers, Blood River.

It confirmed their belief in a God-given destiny in pushing into a promised land — though some historians doubt the authenticity of the vow which made Dec. 16 the most sacred day in the African calendar.

True to form, there is nothing at the Blood River monument to honour the extreme bravery of spear-carrying Zulu warriors, cut down by superior weapons in repeated charges.

It was an early milestone in a series of settler wars, ending in the 1799 British victory at Ulundi, capital of the KwaZulu former black homeland. The battles marked one of history's greatest challenges offered by an indigenous population to advancing Europeans.

Now, with the assumption of power of the black majority, the war — from these bush battlefields through townships such as Sharpeville past conquerors' instruments of oppression like apartheid — is over.

The European conquest has been reversed," wrote white South African editor Ken Owen. "The voting unit did the outcome of nine frontier wars and innumerable skirmishes. The great trek was stripped of symbolism... 'This election has liberated black South Africans, not only from the oppressions of apartheid, or even from white rule, but from a crushing history of three centuries of defeat and humiliation.'

Keepers of the holy places, Muslims and Christians, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians and countless other non-Jewish minority groups, who have called Jerusalem their home for hundreds if not thousands of years, have been cut off from family and friends in the West Bank for much of the last six years due to Israeli military and security regulations.

Already here the mystique of the "vow" seems on the wane. On a public holiday it drew only a few visitors. Zulu children sold carvings of buffaloes, their spread horns marking the classic Zulu tactic of frontal assault and encirclement.

The whites in their laager, despite superior weapons and resources, finally were overtaken by greater numbers.

By Youssef Azmeh  
Reuters

**DUBAI** — Superior north Yemeni forces mercilessly pounded southern strongholds in their drive towards Aden on Wednesday but military experts asked what would they do if and when they reached the outskirts of the city.

They said President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern armies may well capture the key Al Anad military base 60 kilometres north of Aden, enabling them to link up with other Saleh forces entrenched close to Aden along the eastern coast.

But this in itself would not bring about the downfall of southern leaders holed up in Aden who appear to have rallied the majority of southern Yemenis behind them in their defiance of Mr. Saleh's authority.

Mr. Saleh's foreign minister said on Tuesday northern forces did not need to capture Aden because its people themselves would drive out the president's rivals led by his Vice-President and arch-foe Ali Salem Al Beidh.

But this was dismissed by most experts as rhetoric two weeks after Mr. Saleh launched his all-out attack to unseat Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) that has dominated southern Yemen for more than 25 years.

The experts said that barring a political settlement, which the president has rejected, Mr. Saleh had two options — to try to storm Aden or lay siege to the city in the hope of forcing its surrender.

Neither option was attractive to Mr. Saleh's advantage.

If he were to storm the city, he would face well-armed and



Hundreds of foreigners wait in the port of Aden for their turn to be evacuated by sea to Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden May 6, two days after a civil war erupted (AFP photo)

### Yemen: no easy victory

It would expose his armies' rearguard and supply lines to attack by tribesmen eager for booty and by YSP militiamen and their southern supporters.

Mr. Saleh could shell the city to bring it to submission, but such action against an urban centre packed with civilians was likely to raise an international outcry and could backfire against him, the experts said.

The southern air force, operating from Aden airport and other Russian-built airports further east, was also likely to be more effective in harassing the northern troops once they

come out into open country around Aden, they added.

Aden has been using its superior air power to attack Mr. Saleh's advancing armies but experts believe it has not been effective in halting their advance along the mountains and ravines of present fronts in the hills mainly north of the city.

"The longer it lasts, the easier it becomes for the south, as their own supply lines get shorter, and the harder it becomes for the north," a Gulf-based military analyst said.

"No one is going to win an early victory," said another.

highly-motivated defenders likely to fight a classical urban guerrilla war that would be both bloody and costly.

The experts said Aden was heavily fortified and the YSP had kept 30,000 men in reserve to defend the city of 350,000 people.

"The people of Aden will defend the city because, rightly or wrongly, they believe they will be massacred by Mr. Saleh's men," said one Arab diplomat with close southern connections.

"They see the northern tribesmen who from the mainstay of Mr. Saleh's army as

cut-throats and bandits who would wreak havoc in secular Aden in the name of Islam," he said.

He was referring to the long-standing antipathy between the highly-conservative and largely lawless mountain tribes people of the north and the relatively modernised and liberalised people of Aden.

Northerners see Adenis as godless Communists who allow their women to go uncovered, rarely go to the mosque and drink beer in public.

A lengthy siege would also stretch Mr. Saleh's communications lines along treacherous terrain.

### 'Forgotten' in Jerusalem

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**SHEICK JARRAH**, Jerusalem — As the Palestinians of Jericho and Gaza enter the era of self-rule, their brethren in Jerusalem can look forward to a new future. Plagued by daily confrontations with the Israeli military and a virtual siege dividing them from the rest of West Bank, Arab Jerusalemites feel that time and the Arab World has forgotten their existence.

Every Palestinian is a terrorist unless he/she proves otherwise," Abu Yassin, a taxi driver taking an arduous and dangerous back road into Jerusalem from Ramallah, says jokingly.

Mr. Abu Yassin is a native of Ramallah, whose taxi/service route from Ramallah to Jerusalem was interrupted by the security regulations imposed by Israel banning West Bank residents from entering Jerusalem. He has a West Bank identification card and a light blue West Bank licence plate which distinguishes his car on site.

Light blue coloured identification cards differentiate a West Banker from a Jerusalemite. A West Bank identification card identify an individual by name, sex, age, religion and place of residence. A Jerusalemite card identifies people along the same lines with the difference that religion in the classical sense is not mentioned under the religion category is written either Arab or Jew.

West Bankers, with the exception of a selected few who must get a security clearance from the Israeli military, are not allowed to enter Jerusalem for "security reasons."

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"The closure" of Jerusalem, as West Bankers call it, has created serious administrative problems for the Palestinian society, many of whose main health, media and educational institutions are based in Jerusalem.

"Patients have died because the Israelis would not allow them into Jerusalem," says Shawki Harb, head of the Ramallah Hospital who performs surgeries at the Makassed several times a week.

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"The other day when Dennis Ross was in Tunis speaking to Yasser Arafat, I sent an urgent message to Tunis: — 'tell the Americans we need to get into Jerusalem,'" recalls Hanna Nasser, the head of Bir Zeit University near Ramallah.

"The Arab World is talking

about 'liberating' Jerusalem when the fact of the matter is we can't even get in," explains Dr. Nasser bitterly.

The Jerusalem-based Orient House remains the main meeting point for Palestinian negotiators and it is the building which is considered by Palestinians, to be the "seat" of the future Palestinian self-government.

It is where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)'s main representative in the occupied territories, Faisal Husseini, welcomes foreign and official guests on behalf of the future government. But Israelis, who recently began demonstrating in front of the Orient House to protest the "official" Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, see it as evidence of Palestinian "designs" on the city.

This reporter was unable to find one Israeli, among supporters of the ruling Labour Party, the liberal Meretz Party or the Likud Party, who supported the withdrawal of Israel from East Jerusalem or the part of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

Palestinians consider Jeru-

salem to be just as much their city as Israelis do. U.N. resolutions and international law clearly state that East Jerusalem is "occupied territory", something Israel has thus far refused to acknowledge.

"The Israelis want to make Jerusalem a de facto Israeli city so that by the time we want to negotiate over its status and our rights here the facts on the ground will prevent any changes," says legal advisor to the Orient House Ziad Abu Ziad.

Human rights organisations, media bureaus as well as cultural centres based in Jerusalem are only partially functioning due to the fact that their employees, most of whom live outside the city, are not allowed to enter Jerusalem.

Land and property confiscation take place almost daily. The city has been entirely encircled by Jewish settlements and "rumour" has it that many of the Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza are being promised "resettlement" in Jerusalem as compensation for their leaving the settlements that they are in.

Thus the Arabs of Jeru-

salem fear that their presence in their city will remain "symbolic" rather than functional if Israel is to have it's way in the negotiations with the PLO.

"Everyone says 'no peace without Jerusalem' but practically they can't force the Israelis to obey international laws," says Yacoub Alami, a merchant in the old city.

Work had only just begun in January on the reconstruction of an Old Jerusalem home that is to be transformed into the Al Wasihi Art Centre — "a place in Palestine for Art and Artists," but even here the strains of the occupation are evident.

"All the workers are from outside Jerusalem and they can't get in — so we had to put the project on hold," says Vera Tamari, one of the founders of the centre.

"Israel does not want a Palestinian cultural centre in Jerusalem — Israel does not want Jerusalem to be part of Palestine — but of course it is," she says.

### Mad cows and an English disease

By Jürgen Kröning

**BRITISH POLITICIANS** threatened to take legal action against Bonn: a Shropshire farmer cancels an £80,000 order for German farm machinery; enraged politicians in Dublin accuse the German government of "dirty tricks". Scientists beg to differ and principles are compromised. To critics of "scaremongering", "protectionism" and (not least in Britain) "well done Bonn", Germany's stated intention to ban British beef because of BSE — bovine spongiform encephalitis or "mad cow disease" — is souring a lot of relationships.

The conflict highlights the cultural difference between the British and the German governments. The German health minister, Horst Seehofer, and his scientists argue that BSE is still poorly understood. They say BSE has proved easily transmissible between mammals than previously thought. Mice, pigs, monkeys — the last two are the animals most physically similar to man — have all developed the disease after being fed or injected with BSE-infected brain tissue. Therefore, they argue, the transmission of BSE to humans cannot be ruled out conclusively.

Moreover, they insist, we do not yet know the BSE incubation period — it may be 20 or even 30 years. In other words, Mr. Seehofer

and his scientists believe they are acting on the basis of the worst possible scenario.

British ministers, meanwhile, consistently choose the best possible scenario for BSE. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) says there is no evidence that the disease can affect humans. But even HM scientists admit, at least indirectly, that there remains a risk, however "remote".

Both sides accept that BSE may be caused by cattle feed containing sheep's offal and infected with scrapie, a deadly brain disease known for 200 years. MAFF also accepts there's a possibility that BSE has no direct link with scrapie but might be caused by cows being continually fed their own infected brains.

The uncertainty is growing. The concentrated feed was banned in 1989 and one year later, MAFF predicted there would probably be no more than 20,000 BSE cases. Despite equally reassuring forecasts in later years, the number of infected British cattle has risen to more than 120,000. More than 600 cattle a week are still slaughtered and British government assurances that the epidemic is in retreat were based only on suspected cases.

What is puzzling is that more than 8,000 cattle born after the concentrated feed was banned have developed BSE. A significant proportion came from herds with no

poisoning in the Gulf war. The cow recovered, but MAFF officials insisted on putting the animal down and Mr. Purdey was denied further access to the drug for continuing treatment.

The ministry did not seem interested, says Mr. Purdey, in taking up the OP line of research but the scientific advisory committee of the Journal of Nutritional Medicine was sufficiently impressed by his theory to accept his lengthy paper for publication in March.

Mr. Purdey points to three sources of chronic OP poisoning in the 1980s: poison chemicals used against wasps, fly and ticks, that penetrate the cattle through the skin; citrus pulp with high residues of OP pesticides widely used in Britain as a cheap source of cattle feed; and OP residues in concentrated cattle feed containing meat from sheep which since 1984 have been dipped twice a year in chemical cocktails.

Cumulative dipping stopped in 1992 but most sheep are still dipped. The British government fights hard against any doubts which might endanger the dominance of the official scrapie-BSE line. MAFF officials stress that their scientists have looked for a connection between agro-chemicals and BSE, but no correlation has been found.

What they have not done, though, is look at the consequences of low-dose, chronic OP poisoning. A study would take many years but

danger?

A decision will be made in the next few weeks. In the meantime, they expect the EU to suggest a Euro solution. If they don't, they seem prepared to take drastic action. As Mr. Seehofer said in the German parliament last month, "We can't go on like this because it amounts to using humans as guinea pigs."

Halfway measures, such as banning meat from animals over three years old and from herds not clear of BSE for more than four years, are regarded as impractical, not least because British vets and officials would have to certify

### North Korea told

(Continued from page 1)

could still carry out meaningful checks of the rods that remain in the reactor. A fresh IAEA team was put in standby to fly to North Korea.

"As of today, it still seems possible to implement the required safeguards measures," the agency said.

Inspection of the spent rods would enable the IAEA to determine their age and verify whether any material had been diverted to make plutonium, a key ingredient in an atomic bomb.

## Rich nations accused of cutting aid to poor

GENEVA (R) — Rich countries were accused by a coalition of major non-governmental aid organisations of cutting assistance to the developing world and abandoning over a billion people who live in poverty.

In its annual report, "The State of Aid, 1994," the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) said Japan, Denmark, Ireland and New Zealand among industrialised states were planning aid increases in the next

few years.

The 162-page report also argued aid was becoming more commercialised and linked to creating advantages for business in donor states.

"The reality of aid in 1994 is depressing," the Geneva-based ICVA said. "With a few exceptions, donors appear to be failing to live up to their commitments on aid volume."

Harder economic times at home were bringing on "aid fatigue," the report suggested.

"... In some countries recessions

appear to be increasing people's preoccupation with domestic need... 'charity begins at home' is being heard more often," it said.

More than a billion people around the world live in absolute poverty, eight million children died annually from preventable childhood diseases and one in three in poor states was stunted by malnutrition, the report said.

But member countries of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) appeared to see economic adjustment and reform as being the essential conditions for development, and focused aid accordingly, the report added.

"It is as if the alleviation of poverty is a bonus which is sure to follow," the ICVA declared.

"Until donors make poverty reduction their first priority, until improvements in the quality of life for the world's poorest people are seen as the

benchmark of success for aid, billions of dollars a year will continue to be diverted away from families for whom under-employment, disease and malnutrition are everyday realities," it added.

The report said Japan, which provides 20 per cent of total overseas development aid from OECD members, planned a substantial increase over the next five years — although it warned economic woes had produced pressures in Tokyo for cuts.

Denmark, which devotes around one per cent of its gross national product (GNP) to aid, Ireland and New Zealand were also projecting higher targets. But they accounted for only 2.6 per cent of the OECD total.

The report said even traditionally generous donors like the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway had begun to cut back, although from much higher portions of GDP of around one per cent.

## Russia frees companies to export arms — Interfax

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government has decided to allow arms and military technology companies to export their excess production and sign contracts with Western partners, Interfax News Agency reported.

The move seemed to signal the end of a state monopoly in the arms exporting business set up just four months ago to bring order to the trade.

Under the new arrangements, which Interfax said were intended to increase the effectiveness of military-technical cooperation with Western companies, the government would continue to ban sales of certain weapons.

It would also have the final word on the countries to which arms could be exported — a clear reference to United Nations embargoes on arms exports to certain states.

Companies seeking to export arms would be screened and would need special registration, Interfax said. They would have the right to export production beyond what the state required.

The Rosvooruzhniye state monopoly, answerable to the government, was set up to handle all arms exports.

Russian arms exports have fallen sharply in recent years and last year were worth \$1.2 billion, Interfax said.

## Weekly analysis of movements and trends of major world currencies

This report is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai. Rates are given as of Wednesday, May 18, 1994.

### Overview

**Fundamental View:** Central banks have followed up their dollar-buying intervention with interest rate hikes in the U.S. and cuts in Germany and Japan, but sentiment towards the dollar remains weak. We continue to believe that the dollar will eventually move higher against the Deutschemark, but will remain weak against the yen. With the potential for Germany's discount rate to be cut only one more time this year following the 50 basis point cut on May 11, we recently moderated our forecast for the Deutschemark a 12-month target of D/USD 1.75.

We still expect Japan's trade surplus — politics or not — to keep upward pressure on the yen in the long term, and maintain our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

**Technical View:** Aided by massive central bank intervention in support of the U.S. dollar, the dollar index was up 0.6 per cent for the week ended May 6. This gain broke a string of three straight weekly losses. Sentiment has been improving in recent weeks, but is still not better than neutral. Continued strength into Monday and Tuesday of this week has allowed short term momentum to turn up from an oversold condition and is even beginning to put pressure on medium term momentum.

Thus, the prospects for a potentially important May low appear to be improving. Support exists at 91.20 and 90.30. The ability to rally back through the 93.50-94.00 range would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 95.30 would probably clinch it.

### Japanese yen

**Fundamental View:** Fearing a rout in the dollar, the Clinton administration has reportedly resigned itself to the need for tighter monetary policy and a stronger dollar to brake growth and curb potential inflationary pressures in the U.S. But the administration continues to give mixed signals, with the U.S. Trade Representative saying on May 18 that trade policy toward Japan remains unchanged since February despite other indications that the administration will back away from its aggressive push for trade concessions for Japan, which appeared to be linked to its changed policy on the dollar.

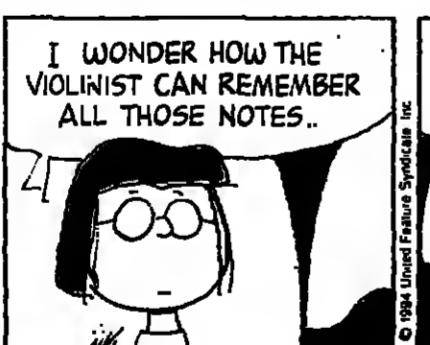
The yen could also prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance. Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years.

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the yen from breaking through the JPY/USD 100 level. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

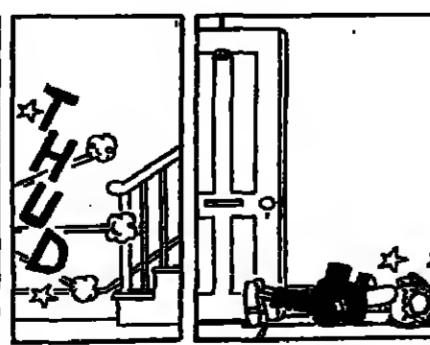
**Technical View:** The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 6 and dropped an additional 2.0 per cent on Monday and Tuesday. Sentiment remains neutral. Both short and medium term momentum indicators are peaking, suggesting that the rally from last March's low (near 106 Y/U.S.\$) and perhaps from last January's low (near 113) is coming to an end. Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may well be positioned for its most extended period of weakness in months.

At the least, it is likely that any nearby strength will not be technically confirmed. The pressures are, therefore, mounting. With that in mind, 106-110 is viewed as significant support; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. With the recent move to new highs, 97-98 is now indicated resistance.

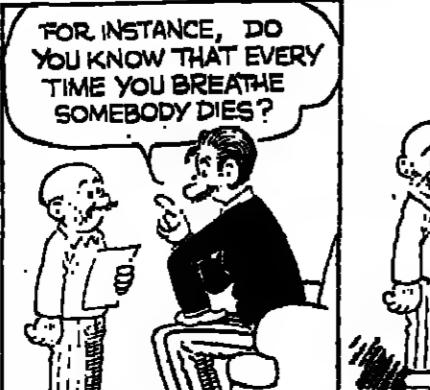
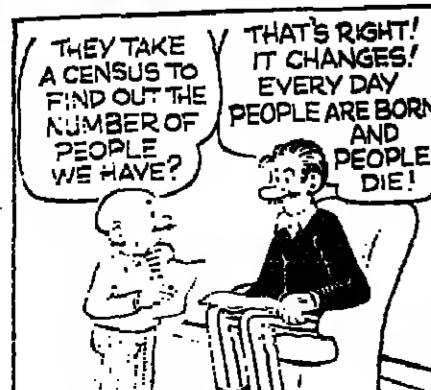
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt 'n' Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 23, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Bring your finest talents to the attention of higher-ups who can assist you in getting the backing you need for a worthy project. Show that you have poise when handling personal and private responsibilities.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have a good opportunity now to handle business matters wisely and advance in your line of endeavour. Be optimistic in your success.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Try to understand the aims of associates better so that you can coordinate your efforts more gainfully. Be poised for any situation.

**TAUROS:** (April 20 to May 20) You are able to gain personal aims easily during the day, but not in the evening when you are not thinking clearly for what you are doing.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 19) You are able to organise your life more intelligently in the morning, but don't make foolish changes later in the day or there will be problems.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Engage in familiar activities which could bring you pleasure and profit. Take no risks where your health is concerned.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Look to good friends for help in furthering your pet projects during the daytime. Handle dull chores in the evening time.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 19) Plan how to improve your reputation and show that you are an excellent citizen. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will have much put aside for later.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Morning is the best time for expansion in career activities.

### FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 24, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** As we experience the Lunar eclipse at the Full Moon in Sagittarius, combined with the Moon sextile Neptune and Uranus will want to put a new course of action into operation.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study new ideas that could lead to advancement in your line of endeavour. Enjoy the company of close ties tonight and you can have a wonderful time.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't criticise a close tie at this time or there could be a severance of connections. Don't rely on your intuition today.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 19) You can get excellent results if you are more supportive of associates. Maintain your poise at all times today and you will confidence.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Morning is best spent handling career matters. A new plan needs more study before you put it in operation at this time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on tasks ahead of you and gain benefits. Be more cooperative with fellow associates you deal with.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Figure out a practical way that could give you added security in the days ahead. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will come out on top.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You know exactly how to improve conditions at home, so

### FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** As we experience the Lunar eclipse at the Full Moon in Sagittarius, combined with the Moon sextile Neptune and Uranus will want to put a new course of action into operation.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study new ideas that could lead to advancement in your line of endeavour. Enjoy the company of close ties tonight and you can have a wonderful time.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Analyse personal aspects of your life and figure out the best way to improve them. This is not a good day for taking risks with health or wealth.

**TAUROS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't criticise a close tie at this time or there could be a severance of connections. Don't rely on your intuition today.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 19) You can get excellent results if you are more supportive of associates. Maintain your poise at all times today and you will confidence.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Morning is best spent handling career matters. A new plan needs more study before you put it in operation at this time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on tasks ahead of you and gain benefits. Be more cooperative with fellow associates you deal with.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Figure out a practical way that could give you added security in the days ahead. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will come out on top.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You know exactly how to improve conditions at home, so

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 21, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Bring your finest talents to the attention of higher-ups who can assist you in getting the backing you need for a worthy project. Show that you have poise when handling personal and private responsibilities.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Morning is best for handling responsibilities and to avoid unpleasant strife in the afternoon. Happiness can be yours by what you get done.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Study your surroundings and make long-range plans for improvement. Attend a social function in the evening and have a wonderful time.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 19) You have tasks to do which require special care, so be precise and gain added benefits. Be happy with loved ones at home.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Gain the cooperation of close ties for gaining a personal aim. Steer clear of one who has an eye on your assets or you could lose them.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Gain the cooperation of close ties for gaining a personal aim. Steer clear of one who has an eye on your assets or you could lose them.

**TAUROS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't waste any time. Show more devotion to loved ones who live within your house.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be sure to keep your part of any contract you have negotiated with others. Try to have more rapport with your mate tonight and have a wonderful evening.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Showing others that you are a true friend will gain their added goodwill now. Don't neglect important business matters.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Know what your true desires are and how best to attain them. Be more optimistic about the future and what it holds for you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A good friend can be of help to you today, so accept and get busy on projects. Avoid the social events occurring in the evening.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Delve into civic matters of importance and gain the assistance of loyal friends. Engage in hobbies with congenial friends tonight.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Take a new approach on a matter that has been puzzling you for a long time and you solve it wisely. Be alert at all times.

### FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 22, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** An important day and evening for you to tie loose ends together and to make sure that you understand both sides of a dispute that you could allow yourself to be drawn into. Strive for neutrality.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are able to carry through with some creative task and get excellent results. Make plans for the future for you and the ones in your life.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to follow all rules and regulations which apply to you. Contact good friends in the afternoon and discuss what the future holds for you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A new project you have in mind needs more study before you put it into operation. Take needed health treatments which you must have.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A good day to visit friends and relatives for mutual satisfaction. Make long-range plans for the days ahead about projects in the works.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Do your best to avoid an argument with close ties. Follow advice of a friend who has your best interests at heart.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to please one who has done you many favours in the past and then carry through with what is being done. Strive for happiness.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

powerful explosion in southern Lebanon, killing any casualties, and the scene, Khaled, has been found and checked the dining room of the school. It happened over a wide area. Mr. Yaqub said, aware of why the target of a bomb in the metropolis of Beirut on Feb. 15, a Shi'ite Muslim, died.

Lebanese guerrillas allies in its South Lebanon, militia sources said, and positions of the rebel Hizbullah. But a car caused no damage, a civilian was killed, and the community was retaliated by shelling.

poll

ster Yitzhak Rabin is an option Labour Party leaders carried out for the election, asked to say who lead the government position Likud Party defense minister and right. Far-right Israel's backing, one person and ex-Prime Minister Shimon Peres trailed, and that Mr. Rabin was one of the 503 people killed in Wednesday's

market, kills 16

people were killed when a rocket struck the minister Gulpuddin Hizbullah garrison which is led by General Burhanuddin Hizbullah to fire the rocket. He work of pro-Rabin position forces them available from Mr. Hizbullah together with northern areas, seeks to topple the firing rockets and anti-aircraft, where more than renewed hostilities break a seven-year-old truce, in other parts of the

is of drugs

authorities seized 15 in May, arresting 1,000, it said. Mr. Seiffert of arrested between March and May from Afghanistan and America via Turkey, 95 tonnes of drugs — and arrested 1,000 addicts, according to

bya offered bribe

prominent Libyan dissident has said a senior member has come down her campaign. The New York Times' reign Minister Hansel 1981 and became a prominent figure abroad after his arrival on Dec. 11. Libyan leader, Baha Al Omari, has been arrested in the Paris-based office. Omari, who lives in Paris, told her Tripoli wife four children and her son as being condemned for her son's two sons, who were arrested to Mr. Kithin, a major concern of the

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## Battle rages for Rwandan capital after hospital bombed

KIGALI (R) — Rwandan rebels and government forces battled with mortar and artillery early Friday in Kigali in some of the most intense battles the capital has suffered so far, witnesses said.

The fighting had raged through the night, with red and green tracer lighting the sky over the blood-soaked city where hours earlier at least 30 patients in hospital were killed in a mortar attack.

Mortar and artillery fire were most intense around the key government barracks at Kanombe, just east of the airport, and around the police headquarters.

"Is this the final battle for Kigali? I don't know. The RPF (rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front) is squeezing more tightly," U.N. military chief Major-General Romeo Dallaire told Reuters.

The rebels were apparently driving to battle into submission their foes in the Kanombe garrison and the main police barracks.

### Washington — Hanoi inch toward swapping diplomats

WASHINGTON (R) — Vietnam and the United States have agreed in principle to send 10 to 20 diplomats to each other's capitals as the next step toward normal relations, a senior Vietnamese official said Thursday.

Le Van Bang, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters he expected the diplomats to open projected "liaison" offices in Washington and Hanoi within the next three months.

He said he had agreed on the staffing level of 10 to 20 diplomats at a meeting Wednesday with James Hall, director of the State Department's office of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia affairs.

Le Bang made his remarks at a business conference attended by the first big Vietnamese delegation to visit the United States since President Bill Clinton lifted a 19-year-old trade embargo on Feb. 3.

The two sides have been negotiating details of the offices since shortly after Mr. Clinton proposed them when he scrapped the trade ban. At issue has been their size, status and such matters as whether they will fly national flags. In separate but parallel talks, the two countries have been working out a comprehensive settlement of wartime financial claims.

The opening of the offices, which is subject to an exchange of protocols, would be an important step toward the nationalisation of relations.

But the United States has ended the establishment of full diplomatic ties to continued Vietnamese cooperation in tracing the fate of the 2,235 U.S. servicemen missing in Indochina, 1,642 of them in Vietnam.

Mr. Le Bang said the liaison office in Washington would make it easier to do business with Vietnam by issuing visas and acting as a kind of clearing house for information on opportunities. It would not be a full-fledged embassy.

Asked whether he expected the exchange of diplomats within months or weeks, Mr. Le Bang replied: "I think months. One month, two months, three months."

The State Department had no immediate comment, but a department official said some details had not yet been settled. Among these is when the Vietnamese will be allowed to move into the former South Vietnamese embassy in Washington.

Mr. Le Bang said Hanoi eventually planned to move its diplomats into embassy, which he had just toured as part of preparations for moving to Washington, where he is expected to head the Vietnamese office.

The handing over of the former South Vietnamese embassy is being worked out as part of a deal that would involve the simultaneous return of the former U.S. embassy in Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City.

Communists seized the U.S. embassy moments after helicopters plucked fleeing Americans and Vietnamese from its roof in April 1975.

Mr. Le Bang said he expected the liaison offices initially to be housed in temporary premises in Washington and Hanoi.

Gen. Dallaire, commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said he would try again to get the government to hand control of the airport to U.N. forces to make it neutral.

The airport is used to bring in vital humanitarian supplies and will be needed for troop reinforcements agreed by the Security Council but not yet assembled.

Gen. Dallaire added: "Unless government forces agree today to make the airport neutral, the U.N. will use another airfield to land troops and supplies. This will probably be a considerable distance from Kigali."

He said he was considering withdrawing some of the 200 peacekeepers pinned down at Kigali Airport.

The RPF has repeatedly said it would agree to hand over the airport to U.N. control but government forces have refused.

While government guns are positioned there, the rebels say

the airport remains a legitimate military target.

Some 5,000 reinforcements for the 450 UNAMIR peacekeepers on the ground in Rwanda were ordered in by the Security Council this week — although there were no public firm commitments of troops from African and Western nations approached.

The troops are needed to try to stop massacres in which aid agencies say 500,000 people have been killed, mainly members of the Tutsi tribe, slain by government troops, Hutu militiamen, and mobs.

Hutu death squads went on the rampage after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6. They are apparently beyond the control of government forces, who witnesses say also participated in the killings.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants a first battalion of 500 Ghanaians and armoured personnel carriers to be flown in by U.S. aircraft to secure Kigali Airport. The plan is that they would fan out from there.

But Washington wants the troops to deploy along safe border areas, a proposal Gen. Dallaire believes will not help most people.

Gen. Dallaire indicated that Kigombe Airport, close to the northern government garrison town of Rubengeri, could be used as an alternative to Kigali for U.N. operations.

But Rubengeri is being attacked by rebels from the east. To reach the capital, U.N. traffic would have to cross battle lines twice, analysts pointed out.

U.N. officials were bound for Kigali to try to persuade the warring parties to cooperate with peacekeeping forces, but air traffic was unlikely to be allowed into the airport.

Both sides say they will welcome a humanitarian force but the RPF warned it would treat U.N. forces as the enemy if they tried to come between them and government troops.

### Malawi's UDF seen short of majority assembly vote

BLANTYRE, Malawi (R) — The opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) has emerged as the biggest parliamentary party in Malawi's landmark elections but appears short of an outright majority, unofficial results showed Friday.

With virtually all results of Tuesday's elections in hand, Bakili Muluzi's UDF had about 85 seats, the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP) between 56 and 57 seats and the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD) 35. There are 177 assembly seats.

Election officials said there was some dispute with results from the southern district of Nsanje, where the UDF was initially reported to have won and then lost two seats.

A high-level panel from Malawi's Electoral Commission conducting the ballot had been sent there early Friday to

investigate, they said.

One of the candidates standing in the Nsanje district is the MCP's Vice-President and Home Affairs Minister Gwanda Chakuumba.

The commission said it hoped to announce most if not all the results of the polls, Malawi's first pluralist elections in 30 years of President Kamuzu Banda's one-party rule, Friday afternoon.

Mr. Muluzi, 51 and a former MCP official, trounced Mr. Banda, the head of the MCP, in the parallel presidential final official results of this poll are also outstanding but Mr. Muluzi will be sworn in Saturday.

Mr. Muluzi said Thursday he would form a coalition government with AFORD of veteran trade unionist Chakwera Chikana should the UDF fail to get a parliamentary majority.

### Australian opposition leader declares job vacant

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's embattled opposition leader John Hewson threw down the gauntlet to his party critics Friday, announcing a ballot for his own job — for which he said he expects to be the favourite.

Ending days of frenzied speculation about his future, he told a media conference here he had called a special party meeting for 2:30 p.m. (0430 GMT) Monday, and had declared all leadership position vacant.

"I think I will win quite well," said the former economics professor who as leader of the Liberal Party also heads the conservative coalition opposition in which the rural-based National Party is junior partner.

"I will be returned to the leadership of the Liberal Party with a renewed mandate — and then I will make some changes," he added.

His announcement follows an accusation by Mr. Hewson Thursday that elements of the Liberal Party — and the media

were trying to destabilise him.

In a clear reference to Mr. Hewson's leadership, former Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Tuesday that a few people needed "to be wedded out" to revive party fortunes.

The Liberal Party is at the moment further away from winning elections than it was in 1945 when Robert Menzies founded the party," Mr. Fraser said.

Mr. Hewson, 47, vowed the following day that he was "bloody well never going to give up" the leadership.

Elected Liberal leader in 1990, Mr. Hewson was reelected after leading the coalition to disastrous defeat in a so-called unusable election in March 1993 while Australia was still mired in the impact of its worst recession for 60 years.

He told reporters Friday it was clear the speculation surrounding the leadership of the party had gained such momentum that the issue needed to be resolved as soon as possible.

### Political crisis deepens in Azerbaijan over Karabakh

BAKU (R) — A political crisis in Azerbaijan deepened Thursday after the opposition marshalled resistance to a peace deal with Armenia that could bring Russian forces back on to Azeri soil.

A Russian-brokered plan to end the undeclared war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh would bring several hundred Russian troops into Azerbaijan to police a ceasefire.

A total of 22 opposition parties launched a movement of national resistance with the aim of blocking "introduction of any troops under any flag, be they CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) or Russia."

An appeal to the people from the group, which included the nationalist Popular Front, warned that the introduction of such troops represented "an external threat" to the country.

Azerbaijan is the only member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with no Russian troops stationed on its territory.

Azerbaijan refused to sign the deal at talks in Moscow earlier this week and President Heydar Aliyev has not made it clear whether he fully backs the plan or not.

But the opposition clearly fears Mr. Aliyev will finally accept the agreement to end the six-year-long bloody conflict which constantly threatens the internal stability of his volatile country.

Karabakh technically belongs to Azerbaijan but ethnic Armenians are now military masters of the mountainous territory and have declared a separate republic. They have also occupied large areas of southern Azerbaijan.

The war has cost several thousands of lives, created more than one million refugees, mostly Azeris, and drained the economies of both Transcaucasian states.

The newly-formed movement said it planned to stage a peaceful rally in Baku Saturday against the government's policy on Karabakh.

A parliamentary crisis blew up over the issue Wednesday when 15 deputies walked out of parliament after the speaker had refused to allow discussion of the proposed peace deal.

The walkout meant the parliament fell short of a quorum.

Tofik Gasimov, chairman of the Standing Committee on State Reorganisation, described the situation as "a class struggle crisis."

Estimated that up to 50 veterans could die during the ceremonies in a worst-case scenario. They said all local hospitals were setting beds aside in cramped wings for elderly people.

The generals presented security plans for the June 5-6 ceremonies in charge of the D-Day 50th anniversary said they had three main worries: The weather, uninvited ultra-light aircraft and the fragile health of thousands of elderly veterans.

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## Sports

JPD, 21/5/94

## Brilliant AC Milan humiliate Barcelona in European Cup

ATHENS (AFP) — AC Milan won the European Champions Cup for the third time in six years with a stunning 4-0 triumph over Barcelona here late Wednesday.

The Spanish champions were ruthlessly exposed by a Milan performance that was brilliantly orchestrated by their Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic.

The Montenegrin carved the Barcelona defence apart to create the crucial opening goal for Daniele Massaro, had a hand in Massaro's second just before the break and then scored a stunning third two minutes after the restart.

After robbing Josep Guardiola on the right touchline, Savicevic spotted Andoni Zubizarreta off his line and audaciously lobbed him from the corner of the penalty area to kill the match as a contest.

Marcel Desailly, a member of the Olympique Marseille team that beat Milan 1-0 in last year's final, rounded off a superb performance by breaking through the Spaniards' back four in the 58th minute and placing a right foot wide of Zubizarreta.

Desailly, who marked Marco Van Basten out of last year's final, was again the key to victory with his work at the heart of the Milan midfield.

By smothering their opponents in the middle of the park Fabio Capello's side cut off the supply to Barcelona's forwards Hristo Stoichkov and Romario.

The deadly duo barely threatened all night despite the absence of Milan's international central defenders Franco

Baresi and Alessandro Costacurta, both ruled out of the match by suspension.

Barcelona's spectacular performances in getting to the final had led many to anticipate wave after wave of Catalan raids on the Milanese goal.

But it was the Italians who took a grip on the game right from the start — Savicevic, who won a European Cup medal with Red Star Belgrade in 1991, skipping past Miguel Angel Nadal as early as the sixth minute.

Stoichkov created Barcelona's only early chance with a long range shot in the seventh minute but two minutes later Milan were unlucky not to go ahead. Christian Panucci's headed goal was ruled out because Daniele Massaro was judged to be interfering with play in an offside position.

Milan's enterprise finally bore fruit in the 22nd minute when Guardiola failed to clear on the left, giving Savicevic the chance to break into the box.

The montenegrin waltzed past Nadal once more and flicked the ball across goal to give Massaro an easy tap-in at the far post.

Massaro, who missed a handful of chances in last year's final, struck his second in first half injury time — this time with a left foot drive from just behind the penalty spot at the end of a sweeping move out of defence.

Zvonimir Boban swept the ball wide to Roberto Donadoni on the left flank. His busy run took him round the back of the defence and with the Barcelona defenders looking for Savicevic, his pass with the

outside of the foot perfectly picked out Massaro.

Barcelona looked willing for a second-half battle but Guardiola's blunder and Savicevic's brilliant strike proved a knockout punch.

From then on they were a feeble shadow of their normal selves and they could easily have become the first side to lose a European Cup final by five goals.

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AC Milan's captain Mauro Tassotti (left) and coach Fabio Capello (right) both wave as they exit the airplane carrying their team to Milan tomorrow (AFP photo).

Meanwhile, Spanish coach

Javier Clemente included nine Barcelona players in his squad for next month's World Cup finals announced Thursday.

The players from the Spanish champions provide the core of the 22-man squad but many fans will be disappointed there is no place for veteran midfielder Michel Gonzalez who played in the last two World Cup finals.

The coach said he had considered Michel as well as Atletico Madrid defender Juan

Manuel Lopez.

"He's a great man who creates harmony within the team and lives for the Spanish side but my plan for the World Cup did not include him," Clemente said at a news conference.

Michel, capped 66 times, played in Mexico in 1986 and Italy in 1990 but has not appeared in the national side since October 1992.

Clemente was obviously influenced in his selection by Barcelona's crushing 4-0 defeat

by AC Milan in the European Cup final Wednesday.

"I think it was a triumph for Spanish football that they made it to the final," he said.

Spain face South Korea in Dallas in their first match June 17, the opening day of the finals.

"It will be a complicated match, not only because it's the first match. Korea do not play to win, they play to prevent you from playing and that could be dangerous," Clemente said.

## World Cup places battle set to begin

ZURICH (Agencies) — FIFA Friday kickstarted a battle over the allocation of new World Cup places when it endorsed a proposal to increase the finals to 32 teams from 1998.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter, who made the expected announcement that this summer's finals in the United States would be the last with 24 teams, said no decision on allocation of the extra places will be made until after this year's final July 17.

But Blatter indicated earlier this week that he would be backing a formula based on results at this summer's finals and UEFA, the European football union, has already made a firm proposal to that effect.

UEFA want Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean/North American region known as CONCACAF to be given one extra place each and the other four to go to the regions providing the semi-finalists this summer.

In the last two tournaments Europe had three semi-finalists, with Argentina representing South America, and in 1982 all four semi-finalists were from Europe.

As Europe already has 13 of the 24 places this proposal is likely to run into opposition and it puts UEFA on a collision course with the African confederation (CAF), which said last month it would expect at least two, if not three, of the extra places.

Only one African team, Cameroon in 1990, has ever reached the quarter-finals of the competition.

Organisers of the 1998 finals in France have given their backing to the proposed increase to 32 teams.

The World Cup was increased from 16 to 24 teams at Spain in 1982.

Kickoff times unchanged

Meanwhile, a FIFA spokesman said although the World Cup organisers were warned of the dangers of playing soccer in the hot Florida sun, they were not asked to change the midday kickoff times for matches in Orlando.

Spokesman Andreas Herren said Belgian doctor Michel D'hooghe, who had promised

to press for matches to be played in the evening, raised the subject at a meeting of FIFA's World Cup organising committee.

"He brought up the issue, but he said he was well aware that no changes were possible," Herren said.

D'hooghe, head of the International Football Federation's medical committee, warned earlier this week that the heat could be a problem for all teams playing in the finals and said he would ask for later kickoffs.

"The idea was a non-starter," Herren said.

The first game in Orlando is June 19 between Belgium and Morocco.

the French West Indies where they are due to play friendlies against Guadeloupe and Martinique.

The big mystery is whether veteran striker Roger Milla, a national hero who turned 42 Friday, will make the final squad. Many experts say he is over the hill but Michel is under intense political pressure to select him.

But if Navratilova's road to the last four is fraught with danger, Graf will also need to be vigilant.

The 24-year-old German player, who like Pete Sampras in the men's singles is bidding for an out-of-sequence 'Grand Slam' by winning her fourth consecutive major title, looks set for a quarter-final showdown against old rival Gabriela Sabatini. But first she will have to beat the player she faced in the 1993 — Mary Joe Fernández.

Other dangerous players in her quarter include Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan, the experienced Helena Sukova and Croatian teenager Iva Majoli.

Former world number-one Tracy Austin, who played her last Grand Slam tournament in Paris eleven years ago, is also in the top-half of the draw.

The Michel and Owonou partnership is blocking a Canadian invitation to play against Belgium in Canada.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Geagea linked to church bombing

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's chief prosecutor accused former warlord Samir Geagea Friday of links to a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers, judicial sources said. They said prosecutor Munif Oweidat decided to charge Dr. Geagea after reading details of his questioning by investigating Judge Joseph Freiha. Dr. Geagea, the chief of the banned Lebanese Forces (LF) group, is held for alleged links to the 1990 assassination of a Christian rival. About 15 other LF members, including Dr. Geagea's right hand man Fouad Malek, are held in connection with the Feb. 27 bombing and murder of Christian leader Dani Chamoun, wife and two sons. The Lebanese government banned the LF, the largest Christian militia during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, in March after arresting Mr. Malek and a number of followers in connection with the church blast. Dr. Geagea was arrested in April after investigations into the bombing led to alleged links between him and the murder of the Chamouns. He has vehemently denied links to either crime.

## 3 held in U.S. over tourist shooting

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (R) — Three men matching the description of the suspects who brutally gunned down a German couple in the southern California mountains were detained for questioning by state police Thursday night, officials said. The men were stopped by highway patrol troopers outside Bakersfield, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of the popular hiking area where Monday's attack left an elderly woman dead and her husband critically wounded, said deputy Mark Lohman of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. "We're following up on one of many leads. We have not made any arrests. They are detained for questioning," Deputy Lohman said. He said the three men and the green car they were driving bore similarities to descriptions released by authorities earlier Thursday at a news conference in Riverside. In their most detailed recounting of the attack yet, officials said the two tourists were ambushed at a scenic roadside lookout near the town of Idyllwild in the San Bernardino Mountains southeast of Los Angeles.

## Omar Sharif hospitalised

ANTIBES, France (AFP) — Egyptian-born film actor Omar Sharif, 62, was taken to hospital here after suffering heart failure but was not in a serious condition, hospital officials said Friday. Sharif fell ill in his hotel room at the end of a bridge tournament in Juan-Les-Pins on the French Riviera Thursday. He is a leading player on the international bridge circuit. The hospital said he had not lost consciousness and that there was nothing serious about his condition. Doctors said he might be discharged later Friday. Sharif starred in such films as *Doctor Zhivago* and *Funny Girl*.

## Former Japan foreign minister dies

TOKYO (AFP) — Former Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito, a veteran member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), died of pneumonia at his Tokyo home Friday morning, party officials said. He was 80. The former lower house legislator was seen as a symbol of political reformists at the LDP, which lost the majority in lower house general elections last year following a series of financial scandals. He will also be remembered for pursuing friendship between Japan and China. Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata expressed his condolences, describing him as a "selfless patriot." Mr. Ito served as chief cabinet secretary in 1979-1980 under then Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. After the sudden death of Mr. Ohira in June 1980, he served as acting prime minister until July 1980. He then became foreign minister in 1980-1981 under prime minister Zenko Suzuki. After Noboru Takeshita resigned as prime minister in 1982 to take responsibility for his alleged involvement in Recruit Co. stocks-for-favours scandal, LDP offered Mr. Ito the post of premier because of his clean image, but he turned it down.

## Estonian premier sacks minister

MOSCOW (R) — Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar sacked his Defence Minister Indrek Kannik and asked for a vote of confidence from his party, the Estonian Foreign Ministry said. Mr. Laar, elected in the former Soviet Republic's first free elections in 1992, asked Mr. Kannik to resign after a disagreement within the cabinet. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mari-Anne Rikkens said by telephone from Tallinn. Justice Minister Kaido Kama had also said he would quit and take five other ministers with him but this had not yet happened and the centre-right coalition government was still in place, she said. An official in Mr. Laar's office said Mr. Kannik had handed in his resignation. "Kannik wanted the government to resign. He wanted a change of prime minister," Ms. Rikkens said. Mr. Laar, Mr. Kannik and Mr. Kama are all members of the Fatherland Party and the prime minister has asked for a vote of confidence in his leadership at a party meeting, probably in June. Mr. Laar won the party's immediate backing at a news conference in Tallinn Thursday. "It came out very clearly that no one supports changing the government," Ms. Rikkens said.

## Oil gushes on Russian island after leak

MOSCOW (R) — A pipeline failure Friday in Russia's far eastern Sakhalin Island let 60 tonnes of oil gush out but there was no environmental harm, ITAR-TASS news agency said. The oil spilled out of the pipeline in Sakhalin's Pervomaiskoye region, a local civil defence spokesman said. Some 54 tonnes of oil was collected by military personnel dispatched to the site, TASS said.

## Russian police kill gunmen, free hostages

MOSCOW (R) — Russian special forces in an armoured vehicle smashed their way into a Moscow currency exchange Thursday night killing two gunmen and freeing two women hostages. Interior Ministry crack troops waited until night before using an armoured personnel carrier to batter their way into the building on Frunze Embankment on the Moscow River to end a six-and-a-half hour siege. Three gunmen snatched the hostages after a bungled robbery attempt and in the following clash a policeman was shot dead. The gunmen later demanded \$1 million to release their captives. The Interior Ministry Omon forces first fired tear gas before charging the building after relatives of the gunmen had failed to persuade them to surrender. The third gunman was arrested. Police sources first said there were three hostages but later discovered there were only two.

## U.S. may cut troops in Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives voted to withdraw up to 75,000 U.S. troops from Europe if U.S. allies there do not pay 75 per cent of the forces' costs by 1998, excluding salaries. The House wrote the proposal into \$263 billion defence authorisation bill for next year by a vote of 268 to 144. The effort to force Europe to pay the large share of the U.S. troops' cost would have to be approved by the Senate and signed by President Bill Clinton to become law. Assistant House Democratic leader David Bonior of Minnesota argued that Japan agreed to pay a large share of the cost of U.S. troops stationed in that country when the House passed a similar proposal and said the House should now put the same pressure on Europe. "We're saying it is time for European allies to pay their fair share too," he said.

## Bulgarian cabinet survives vote

SOFIA (R) — The Bulgarian government narrowly survived its sixth no-confidence vote after the opposition failed to muster enough votes to topple it. Only 25 deputies voted for the non-party government, but the 96 who voted against it fell short of the 121 needed for the motion to be carried. One vote was declared invalid. The announcement of the results of the secret ballot caused uproar in the chamber.

## Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis dies

NEW YORK (R) — Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, widow of President John F. Kennedy and an enduring American symbol of elegance and strength, died with her children at her side after a battle with cancer. She was 64.

She was as close to royalty as one can be in a democratic nation and was best remembered for the poignant moment when she cradled the head of the dying president in her hands after he was shot and killed on a November day in Dallas 30 years ago.

A spokeswoman said the former first lady died at her New York home at 10:15 p.m. EDT (0215) after a four-month fight with lymphoma, which had raced through her body despite chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

"She was sleeping. I don't know if she was asleep or in a coma. She kind of slipped away," said the spokeswoman, Nancy Tuckerman.

She had lost one of her three children soon after birth and suffered a miscarriage and a stillborn birth.

Her brother-in-law and friend Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968 while campaigning for the presidency.

After the tragedy of President Kennedy's murder and the death of her second husband, shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, she entered the New York publishing world and moved quietly in high social circles.

Even as she tried to lead a private life, she had often been hounded by press photographers but almost always was written about in glowing terms.

The sudden worsening in her condition came as a surprise to a nation that remained transfixed by her activities decades after she was in the public arena as first lady, personifying an era heralded as an American camelot for its vitality and style.

"She presented the best in American culture. She created a world impression second to none. She was a woman of great distinction, taste and privacy," said Oleg Cassini, designer and personal friend of many years.

Senator Edward Kennedy, her brother-in-law who visited her twice in the past two days, said in a statement that "Jackie was part of our family and part of our hearts for 40 wonderful and unforgettable years and she will never really leave us."

President Bill Clinton said that "more than any other woman of her time, she captivated our nation and the world with her intelligence, elegance and grace."

Lady Bird Johnson, widow of the president who took office after John F. Kennedy's death, said that Ms. Onassis was an "image of beauty and romance."

Doctors at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center had treated Ms. Onassis with radiation and chemotherapy.

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